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UNCLAS MAPUTO 001427

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [KPAO](#) [OIIP](#) [MZ](#) [OPRC](#) [FRELIMO](#)

SUBJECT: SCHNEIDMAN CLAIM THAT FRELIMO FOUNDER WAS CIA
MAKES MAPUTO HEADLINES

1. Independent publications in Mozambique have featured former AF DAS Witney Schneidman's claims that FRELIMO founder Eduardo Mondlane received funds from the CIA. The October 28 edition of the Beira weekly Zambeze led with the back-page headline, "FRELIMO founder financed by CIA" On October 27, the independent Maputo fax daily Correio da Manhã opened with the headline, "Mondlane financed by the CIA." The October 28 Maputo fax daily Expresso da Tarde headlined, "CIA financed Eduardo Mondlane." The subsequent LUSA-based stories cited in detail Schneidman's new book, "Washington and the Fall of Portugal's Colonial Empire," focusing on comments about FRELIMO founder Eduardo Mondlane's ties to the United States.

2. The articles underscored Schneidman's remarks that in 1963 Mondlane had supposedly received a CIA "subsidy" of USD 60,000 funneled through the African American Institute. They also cite a letter to Attorney General Robert Kennedy that, "it would be idiocy to try to control him (Mondlane), because the very attempt to do so would damage his usefulness..To support Mondlane would be a good investment for us, because his program represents the best and only hope for a relatively peaceful solution to the Mozambican problem"(Post translation).

3. COMMENT: Mondlane studied at Oberlin, received a doctorate from Northwestern, taught at Syracuse, and married an American, who lives in Mozambique and remains highly visible by virtue of her work with dealing with HIV/AIDS and the Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane Foundation. Accordingly, revelations about his ties to the U.S. come as no surprise to educated Mozambicans. The articles, moreover, speak to Mondlane's strength of character, thus conforming to his place in the nationalist pantheon. Nevertheless, tarring the founding father of FRELIMO with the CIA brush sells newspapers and may stimulate some discussion, especially coming as it does in the midst of a presidential election campaign.

LA LIME